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# Torrance Herald

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Sections  
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This Issue

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1932

SECTION A

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## LEGION CHAMPIONS CHAMBER FIGHT TO RETAIN 5-CENT TAX

Legionnaires Will Make House-to-House Canvass to Nullify Wright Repeal Petition. Achievements of Chamber During Past Year Told

Last week the future existence of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce was threatened when J. M. Wright filed a petition with the City Clerk signed by 616 Torrance residents asking for the repeal of the present promotion tax ordinance under which the local Chamber of Commerce functions.

This week the challenge was taken up by the American Legion when its executive board and a large number of Legionnaires decided to make a block by block canvass of the city in an endeavor to persuade citizens who signed the Wright petition to change their minds and favor a reduction of the promotion tax from 10 cents to five cents on each \$100 assessed valuation. When Legionnaires became aware of the seriousness of the move to deprive the Chamber of Commerce of its financial support, they voted unanimously to go out among voters and attempt to nullify the threatened action.

Prominent members of the local Legion post expressed the opinion that the Chamber of Commerce was an important civic organization, vital to the development and well-being of this community and they stated that they believed it was their duty to work for its support.

Since the circulation of the Wright repeal petition, chamber officials state that a number of citizens have called seeking a method of removing their names from it. Several who signed the Wright petition stated that they had misunderstood the petition and did not understand that it repealed the entire promotion tax. Many of these people favor a five-cent tax, chamber officials state.

Chamber directors over a month ago addressed a resolution to the City Council advising that body that beginning February 1, the chamber would be operated on a five-cent basis, and suggesting that the council use the balance of the promotion tax money for appropriate municipal purposes.

Petitions amending the promotion tax ordinance from ten cents to five cents on each \$100 assessed valuation are being prepared and will be circulated by members of the local American Legion post next week. Residents who have signed the Wright petition may nullify their signatures on the repeal petition by signing the petitions to be circulated by Legionnaires.

Below are given a few of last year's achievements of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, as outlined to Legionnaires at the Tuesday night meeting, as well as an analysis of amounts contributed by various types of property owners to the chamber budget. It will be noted that while 85 per cent of the population live within the "old city", this class of residents contribute only 8 1/2 per cent of the taxes.

## Chamber of Commerce ACHIEVEMENTS During the Past Year

Below are a few of the outstanding accomplishments of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce during the past year. Before you pass judgment on this worthwhile civic organization, read the list of its important achievements. Then ask yourself if you can afford to dispense with this organization which will cost the average home owner but 90 cents next year, based on the average home assessment of \$1800 and a 5-cent promotion tax. Can you afford to kill your Chamber of Commerce to save 90 cents a year?

1. Secured \$15,000.00 cash appropriation from Los Angeles County for emergency relief. About 200 local unemployed citizens were benefitted by the distribution of this sum.
2. Legislative victory in behalf of Salm Manufacturing Company, saving that industry from economic destruction and preserving its benefit for this community and the state of California. This concern makes \$200,000.00 worth of merchandise annually, involving a payroll of \$94,000.00.
3. Initiated summer advertising campaign in so-called "Hot Belt" communities, bringing sixty-five vacationing families to Torrance last season and established good will that will undoubtedly repeat and develop future profits for this city.
4. Initiated program for major highway development. Secured definite county commitments for cash allocations aggregating a minimum of \$154,000.00. This means the cash improvement of Sepulveda, Torrance and Eshelman Boulevards and a corresponding saving to Torrance taxpayers. Work on the Torrance portions of these boulevards will be done exclusively by Torrance men.
5. Sponsorship of equipment and uniforms for outfitting local American Legion Drum Corps. Result has been stimulating local interest in this activity and a generous measure of favorable publicity through appearance of the Drum Corps throughout the region.
6. Joint sponsorship of Harbor Districts Industrial Survey Committee and resultant adoption of program by Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce for comprehensive survey of this entire district. Estimated cost of completed report fifteen to twenty thousand dollars, to be paid for by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.
7. Municipal Christmas Tree program, presented again this season, under auspices of the Torrance Fire Department, was financed entirely from promotion funds, and reached over 1600 children, many of whom, this year, undoubtedly received their season's happiest greeting through this meritorious public program.
8. Financed development of local illuminated baseball park, giving recreational pleasure to hundreds of local fans and attracting to Torrance thousands of out-of-town visitors.
9. Continued trade expansion program attracting patronage to local retail stores from neighboring communities, with the resultant betterment of service to local shoppers, and enhancement of property values throughout the city.
10. In addition to the above accomplishments of the past year, credit should be given the Chamber of Commerce for its past annexation program, which has been responsible for cutting the municipal tax rate LESS THAN HALF. Residents in the "old city" of Torrance represent 85 per cent of its total population but they pay only 8 1/2 per cent of the taxes. Annexed territories pay 52 per cent of the tax bill.

## League Meets At Narbonne High School

Conflicting Dates Compel Taxpayers' Organization to Find New Meeting Place

The Taxpayers and Voters League of Torrance and Lomita will hold a mass meeting at Narbonne high school in Lomita tonight at 8 o'clock. This meeting had been announced last week as being held in the Torrance high school, but owing to a misunderstanding this location was not available and the Lomita high school was secured instead.

Speakers of the evening will be John T. Gaffey, president of the San Pedro organization and founder of the league; J. Francis Potter, president of the Los Angeles Realty Board; Claire Woolwine, Los Angeles attorney and former district attorney; Charles J. Golden, former councilman for San Pedro district and former harbor commissioner; Al G. Bailey, president of the Redondo Taxpayers League.

## Name Committee to Plan Relief For Unemployed

Commander L. H. Deininger of the Bert S. Crossland Post has appointed a committee on ways and means to plan the local post's method of joining in with the state-wide movement now underway to reduce unemployment.

The committee is composed of C. E. Marsteller, chairman; H. C. Barrington, R. C. White, George Piper of Torrance, and Charles M. Smith and Frank Laski of Lomita. The group will devise the local plan and report at a special meeting of the post to be held at Earl's Cafe on Tuesday evening, February 23.

Legionnaires all over California are taking part in this big push, which includes a house-to-house canvass in every city where a post participates. A survey of industries and mercantile establishments, in an effort to find jobs either full or part time for those who are out of work. The committee will establish uniform conditions of wages and duration of employment in order to put as many men as possible on a producing basis at a scale that will be fair to both employer and employee.

On adoption of the committee report, the work in Torrance and Lomita will start immediately.

## Orange Crop Is Heaviest In Years, Says Torrance Man

F. C. Winkler, 1507 El Prado, who owns an orange grove at Uplands, brought to the Herald office this week three navel oranges from his ranch which are record-breakers for size and appearance. The largest of the three weighed nearly two pounds and measured four and a half inches in diameter. Mr. Winkler says that the crop at his ranch is the heaviest in 22 years, and that the price will range about 50 cents higher per box than was paid last year. The yield from his five acres will run from 3100 to 3500 boxes of the fruit.

## TOMMY BOWKER GETS CASH FROM CITY DADS

The last outstanding account against the Torrance football team was paid Tuesday night, when the City Council approved a bill from Tom Bowker for \$31.60 covering the remaining indebtedness.

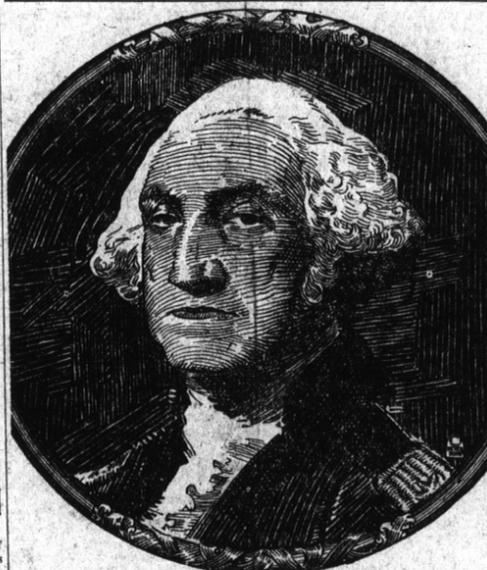
## The Promotion Tax... Who Pays and How Much!

Under the proposed five-cent promotion tax ordinance approximately \$12,000 will be raised next year, which will be contributed by the following classes of property owners:

"Old City" Residential Area, 8 1/2 per cent, or.....	\$ 990.00
Business District, 3 per cent, or.....	360.00
Industries, 36 1/2 per cent, or.....	4,410.00
Annexed Territory, 52 per cent, or.....	6,240.00

**TOTAL FUND RAISED \$12,000.00**  
Average Home Owner, whose property is assessed at \$1,800, will pay each year under the 5-cent tax..... 90 cents

"First In War, First In Peace,  
First In the Hearts of His  
Countrymen"



"A hundred years hence, other disciples of Washington will celebrate his birth, with no less of sincere admiration than we now commemorate it. When they shall meet as we now meet to do themselves and him that honor, so surely as they shall see the blue summits of his native mountains rise in the horizon, so surely as they shall behold the river on whose banks he lived, and on whose banks he rests, still flowing on toward the sea, so surely may they see, as we now see, the flag of the Union floating on the top of the Capitol; and then, as now, may the sun in his course visit no land more free, more happy, more lovely, than this our own country!"—Extract from a speech by Daniel Webster, made on the occasion of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of George Washington.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAM NOTES WASHINGTON ANNIVERSARY

Public Bidden to Hear Program in High School Auditorium Next Monday Evening at 8:15 o'Clock

Community observance of the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington will take the form of a program to be given at the Torrance high school auditorium, Monday evening, February 22, beginning at 8 o'clock. With Alfred Gourdier as chairman of arrangements, all service clubs, fraternal and civic organizations in the city have united to make the event a representative recognition of the important date.

The program will be as follows: Orchestra selection, by a Redondo school orchestra. President's Flourish, Bert S. Crossland Post drum and bugle corps. Salute to the flag. Remarks, by Chairman Alfred Gourdier. Showing of a reel of film depicting scenes at Mt. Vernon. One-act play, "George Washington's Fortune," by Percy Mackay. Enacted by Edward Hartwell, as George, a youthful surveyor; Milton Everett as Richard Glenn, Charles Williams as James Talbot, Kenneth Fess as Keith Carey, chairman; Perry Mendenhall, a frontiersman; Esther Terry as Red Rowan, the frontiersman's daughter.

Address, by Olin Hendrix Price. Singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by the audience accompanied by the orchestra. Reading, "Washington's Prayer at Valley Forge." As this is the first community-wide affair, commemorating the birth of our first president, those in charge of the program are hoping to see the auditorium filled to capacity. There is no admission charge.

During this year, towns, cities and communities all over the United States are joining in this commemorative observance of Washington's birthday. Sponsored by the United States government, the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission was created months ago by Congress with President Herbert Hoover as its chairman. Its activities have been to encourage every town, village and community in the country to join in this nation-wide celebration of the birth of our first president.

Beginning with the programs to be presented on February 22, some of which are elaborate and impressive, for the next nine months, or until Thanksgiving day, November 24, the people's attention will be centered upon the bicentennial remembrance. All national or local holidays during the year will be colored with the Washington observance idea, and in between there will be plays, pageants and festivals of every description, according to the character of the community in which they are given.

## Salary Scale Precipitates Heated Debate

Council Stands Pat On Decision to Cut Expenses After Much Discussion

The 20 per cent reduction in city salary and wage schedules precipitated rather heated arguments at the city council meeting Tuesday night, but the council finally decided by a four to one vote to stand pat on the reduction as effect February 2, with the single exception that appointive employees receiving \$100 or less per month would be exempt from the reduction. The lowered salaries and wage schedules went into effect February 16.

The reduction affects practically every city employee except the city clerk and the city treasurer, whose salaries are set by law and cannot be changed between terms by the city council. Unskilled labor will be paid 40 cents an hour instead of 50 cents.

While Councilman Steiner differed with the other four members of the council on the manner of making the wage reduction, he joined with his colleagues in

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## FORMAL OPENING OF JUSTICE COURT ROOM ON WEDNESDAY

Judge John Dennis Extends Invitation to All Lomita Township to Visit New Quarters February 24

Hear ye. Hear ye. The new courtroom of the Lomita township justice court will be open for inspection on the evening of Wednesday, February 24, and all good citizens of the township are hereby ordered to attend between the hours of 7 and 11 o'clock p. m., under penalty of incurring Judge John Dennis' severest displeasure if you stay away.

Workmen were busy this week putting the finishing touches on the place, but all will be in readiness by next Wednesday for the long-delayed opening. Court sessions have been held here for the past two months, but Judge Dennis and the court officials and attorneys have had to make shift with odds and ends of furniture until the newly constructed equipment had been completed. This is now ready and in place. All furniture within the bar is made of natural oak, a gray velvet carpet has been laid, and there are desks each for the court clerk, court reporter, and the constable. The jury box occupies the east

wall inside the bar, with comfortable leather upholstered armchairs. The judge's bench is handsome, massive, fitted up with shelves and compartments underneath for the storing of books and documents. The center of the desk is raised pulpit fashion. A massive upholstered chair is in place for the use of the judge. Red velvet drapery on the wall behind the chair makes a handsome background. The witness stand is joined to the judge's bench on the left, close to the jury box.

Behind the courtroom a space has been partitioned off for the use of the jury in deliberating

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## PEOPLE SHOW DEEP INTEREST IN DISCUSSION OF CHARTER

Schools Angle Receives Principal Consideration at Mass Meeting Held Tuesday

More than one hundred representative citizens of Torrance attended the meeting held in the Guild hall at the Central Evangelical church Tuesday evening to hear and take part in a discussion of the proposed city charter, Judge C. T. Rippey presiding over the meeting as chairman.

Practically all points of the charter were brought up for analysis. The subject of the city schools was discussed at length and the whole situation was explained by Mr. Rippey, showing how Torrance would derive benefit from conducting its own school system. The status of the teachers which has been one of the moot points, in that the question of teachers' tenure is involved, was shown to be not necessarily detrimental to the teachers now and hereafter to be employed, as a Torrance board of education would be under the same necessity to recognize their rights under the state laws as is the present board of the Los Angeles city school district.

In regard to the financial situation, which engrossed the attention of the taxpayers, Mr. Rippey

showed that a saving of approximately \$150,000 a year would be effected under the charter, assuming that the expense of certain departments under a local board would not be over one per cent of the expense of the same departments under a Los Angeles board, such as business and educational administration, auxiliary agencies, fixed charges, and adding this sum to the total expense including capital outlay for the operation of schools in Torrance, a total expense of \$262,375.38 was arrived at. Revenue paid by the Torrance district for the same fiscal year based on an assessed valuation of \$11,415,165, with a school tax rate of \$1.62, amounted

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## Curtain Rises Tonight On Home Talent Play, "College Flapper"

Promptly at 8:15 tonight and tomorrow night, the curtain will rise on what promises to be the funniest comedy sensation ever presented in Torrance. "The College Flapper" with an entire local cast of over 150 local favorites, is all ready and set to go at the appointed hour. The show will be staged in the high school auditorium under the auspices of the American Legion Auxiliary for welfare work.

The Auxiliary has a reputation of "putting over" what they start and "The College Flapper" will be no exception. In fact the show is expected to be the "crowning achievement" of the year. Newspapers all over the United States and Canada proclaim this

show to be the best amateur show on the road today. The three-act comedy is a laugh scream from start to finish and such specialty as it is presented is better than the one before. It is said by all those attending rehearsals that each special feature alone is well worth the full price of admission.

J. L. Hyde and his orchestra will furnish music for the occasion. The talent in Torrance according to the directors of the performance, Miss Maurine Lawson and Miss Rachel Purcell, is well above the average talent found and the show promises to be an unusually clever one. Don't miss "The College Flapper"—even now it is the talk of the town.

## McDonald Tract Area Near School Wants to Secede

That portion of the McDonald Tract adjoining the Moneta school wants to secede from the city of Torrance, according to J. F. O'Haver, who headed a committee from the Gardena Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night when it appeared before the Torrance City Council.

The Gardena men stated that the impending charter election in Torrance was delaying work on the Moneta school, as the Los Angeles board of education would not authorize the new Moneta school until the school situation in Torrance was determined. The matter was referred to the city engineer for study.

## Bicycle, Watch, Reported Stolen

Wallace West, 1639 216th street, notified police headquarters of the theft of a bicycle from the elementary school grounds last Thursday.

Mrs. C. O. Miller, 2194 So. Western avenue, was robbed of a Bulova wrist watch, engraved with her initials, on Tuesday. The watch was taken from Mrs. Miller's apartment.

**NEW HIGH SCHOOL**  
Ground was broken last week for a new high school at El Segundo, to cost \$55,000. The unit completes the group for which a bond issue of \$500,000 was voted by the city of El Segundo five years ago.

## Renewal Baby Clinic Funds Is Requested

Mrs. C. D. Lowen Asks the Chamber of Commerce to Reconsider Action

Mrs. C. D. Lowen, 304 Beech street, addressed a plea to directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce this week urging chamber officials to reconsider their action in withdrawing support of the Mothers' Educational Center. When the chamber went on the five-cent tax basis recently, the monthly appropriation of \$15 to pay the expenses of the baby clinic was eliminated from the budget. Mrs. Lowen's letter, in part, follows:

"Speaking from my own experience, I know that Dr. Wilde's work in educating your mothers in the proper care of their children has been a Godsend to numerous Torrance people. I cannot believe that any taxpayer of Torrance, however frugal, being acquainted with the wonderful work which Dr. Wilde has been doing, could begrudge the trifling outlay of fifteen dollars per month necessary to the maintenance of the baby clinic."

"It is my hope that the chamber will reconsider its action, in order that Torrance babies will not be deprived of the advantages which are available to the children of practically all other important communities in Los Angeles county."

Chamber directors laid the matter over until their next meeting.

## Auxiliary Closes Membership Drive

The American Legion Auxiliary went over the top in its membership drive which closed this week with 31 new members added to its roster. This gives the Auxiliary a total of 106 members, a gain over the figures for the preceding year. The Auxiliary is elated over the fact that it exceeded its quota this year and is making elaborate plans for the initiation ceremonies at which the new members will be obligated.

## MARCH 2 IS FINAL DAY TO REGISTER

If you want to vote at the April 11 municipal election, you have less than two weeks in which to register. March 2 is a final date. Registrations for the primaries May 2, will be taken until midnight on March 24.

## RAINFALL

Torrance: Seven-day period ending Wednesday, February 17, 1.71 inches; 24-hour period ending Wednesday at 9 o'clock, 1.1 inch; total for the season, 14.97 inches; total to same date last year, 6.82 inches.  
Lomita: Seven-day period ending Wednesday, 1.91 inches; total for the season, 16.08 inches; total to the same date last year, 7.59 inches.